

# A N A D D R E S S

OF THE

## D I R E C T O R S

OF THE

New York Cheap Postage Association,

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

TOGETHER WITH THE

NAMES OF THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS, AND DONORS,

And the Report of the Treasurer.

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NEW YORK :

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1850



# To the People of the United States.

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## CHEAP POSTAGE.

IN the year 1840, two months after the cheap postage system of ROWLAND HILL went into operation, in Great Britain, this subject was first brought before the American people, by BARNABAS BATES, in several periodicals and newspapers, published in the City of New York. The character of the system was fully explained by him, and the importance of adopting it in this country, urged in a series of articles, during the years 1841 and 1842. He also delivered lectures in different places, and resolutions were passed at these meetings in favor of a reduction of postage. By these means, public attention was at last aroused to the importance of the subject, and a public meeting was held in the Merchants' Exchange, in 1843, when the first Committee was appointed to petition Congress for a cheap and uniform rate of postage.

Petitions were forwarded to Congress, and Mr. Bates, on repeated visits to Washington, pressed the subject upon the consideration of the Post Office Committees; and after years of labor, and much expense of money and time to the friends of cheap postage, Congress was

induced in 1845, to reduce the rates of postage to five cents for half an ounce under 300 miles, and ten cents over that distance.

In order to obtain a further reduction of postage, numerous meetings have been held, lectures delivered, and pamphlets circulated, and the press of this and other cities has nobly and powerfully advocated the cause. To give greater regularity and efficiency to their efforts, the same gentlemen who first advocated the reduction of postage, formed an association in 1848, styled the "New York Cheap Postage Association," the object of which is set forth in the subjoined Constitution. From that period, funds have been collected to enable the Directors to print and distribute pamphlets, petitions and circulars to every part of the Union, and to employ agents to carry through this benevolent measure. Several efficient and early friends of the cause have frequently visited Washington during the sessions of Congress to effect this object.

In no instance whatever, has the Association expended any of its funds for the support of agents, beyond the actual expense incurred while they were employed in this business; all their time and labor have been bestowed gratuitously.

The success which has attended the exertions of the friends of cheap postage, is manifest in the reduction of the rates from 6, 10,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $18\frac{3}{4}$ , and 25 cents on a single piece of paper, however light or small, to 5 cents for half an ounce, under 300 miles, and 10 cents over that distance. The reduction from the above heavy rates to 5 and 10 cents, was a most salutary one; but that from pieces to *weight* was of still more importance, because a letter containing three pieces, sent to Boston or Baltimore, which was then charged 75 cents, is now sent for

*five cents !* If over 400 miles, it would by the old rates cost one dollar, but now it is only charged *ten cents !* The advantages to the whole community from this partial reduction are too palpable to need repetition. Other advantages have resulted from the exertions of the friends of cheap postage, which cannot and ought not to be overlooked.

Not only have the people been benefited by this large reduction of rates, but the advantages have extended also to the Post Office Department itself. It is a notorious and recorded fact, that this department in its various ramifications was violently opposed to any reduction, and considered those who advocated the measure, its worst enemies. "How preposterous the idea," said they, "of reducing the rates of postage, when the Post Office does not support itself,—the letters having decreased from 27,535,554, to 24,267,552, and the revenue from \$4,759,110 to \$4,374,713, in three years." Under these circumstances, Charles A. Wickliffe, Post Master General, and his friends, considered the attempt to reduce the rates of postage as a direct blow at his department; and the Madisonian, the organ of the administration, with every paper in the interest of the post-office, treated the scheme as ridiculous in the extreme, and its supporters as dreaming enthusiasts. But the friends of cheap postage were not diverted from their purpose, either by threats or sneers; they persevered in urging upon Congress the measure, and showed so clearly from incontestible facts that the department could be saved from ruin only, by adopting such a rate as would bring all the letters into the mails, and restore the popularity of the post office.

It is a well known fact that the Post Office Department

had become so unpopular with the great mass of the people, and the rates of postage considered so burdensome, that every method was resorted to in order to avoid the payment of postage. Private expresses were established in all the principal cities, and boxes placed to receive letters in many hotels, which were conveyed by individual travellers free of any expense. The consequences were, that the revenue of the post-office and the number of letters sent by mail were greatly diminished. Prosecutions were commenced by the Post Master General against several individuals who established or carried expresses, but in almost every instance they failed, because public opinion was against the post-office, and in favor of the expresses.

After struggling several years against the powerful influence of the national administration, the Post Master General, his assistants, the whole army of postmasters, and every press in the country under the patronage of the post-office, the present law reducing the rates of postage was passed and went into operation July 1st, 1845, under the most unfavorable auspices.

The next Post Master General, Cave Johnson, voted against the passage of the bill, while a member of Congress, and entered upon his office with the honest conviction that it was a pernicious measure, and would be repealed, as had been predicted by Mr. McDuffie and other members of Congress, at the next session. He asserted that one-half of the post-masters would resign, and that none would be found willing to take the office. The *Union*, the organ of the administration at that period, chimed in with the feelings and opinions of Mr. Johnson, who however had the candor to say, "he would give the cheap postage law fair play."

Notwithstanding all this opposition to the law of 1845, and the forebodings of its opponents, it has produced

results which have gratified its friends and confounded its enemies. The letters have increased the last year to *sixty-two millions!*—the revenue of the department to *four million nine hundred and five thousand, one hundred and seventy-six dollars, (\$4,905,176,)*—being *one hundred and forty-six thousand and sixty-six dollars, (\$146,066,)*—more than was ever received in one year since the establishment of the Post Office Department. The department has not only defrayed its own expenses, but there is now “the sum of \$691,782,70 unexpended of the revenue of the past year.”

In view of the success which has attended the *partial* reduction of postage, the friends of this measure have the fullest conviction that a further reduction can be made, which will meet the demands of the people, and promote the usefulness and popularity of the Post Office Department. It should be reduced to the lowest point possible, so that the poorest person among us may feel that postage is not a burden; although there is some difference of opinion as to the rate to which it should be reduced, observation and experience have satisfied us that the revenue point is *two cents pre-paid*.

It can be clearly demonstrated that an uniform rate of two cents will be amply sufficient, when once in full operation, to pay the regular and necessary expenses of the post-office. This is not mere theory or conjecture—it is established by incontrovertible facts. The experience in our own country shows that the reduction of postage has not only augmented the number of letters, but also the revenue of the department. The letters have increased from twenty-four to *sixty-two millions* in four years; and the revenue sufficient to pay all the expenses of the management of the post-office, and to leave a surplus in the treasury of nearly seven hundred



thousand dollars. These are facts which ought not to be overlooked, in judging of the financial operations of cheap postage.

But lest it should be said that the present rates of postage, having been so successful, should be continued, and that it would be dangerous to reduce them to two cents, let us look at the results of this plan in England, where it has been in operation for ten years.

The increase in the number of letters the first year of cheap postage, was from seventy-six millions to *one hundred and sixty-nine millions* : and in nine years they had increased 356 per cent. above the number under the old high rates. A corresponding increase in this country would give us the first year over one hundred and twenty-eight millions of letters, and in less than five years 200 millions, which would yield \$4,000,000 revenue.

By the recent returns of the British Post Office, we learn that the number of letters is annually increasing. From February, 1848, to February, 1849, the increase was 9,296,924, and the whole number 346,861,268.

Estimated increase, at the same rate, from February, 1849, to February, 1850, would make upwards of *three hundred and fifty-six millions* !

This wonderful change has taken place in the short space of ten years.

The gross revenue in 1849, was.....	\$10,718,679
Cost of management.....	7,016,250

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Net revenue,	\$ 3,702,429
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To this sum should be added a payment of \$980,430 for the conveyance of the mails by railways in previous years. This makes the net revenue in 1849, amount to \$4,682,859.



Perhaps it will be said, we cannot look for such an increase of letters in our country as in Great Britain. But why? Are not our people as well educated—as enterprising—as inquisitive—as social? Give them as cheap postage and equal facilities of delivery, and our letters will increase in equal, if not in greater proportion. As evidence of this, look at the fact already stated, that under the present partial reduction they have increased from 24 to 62 millions, in four years. Why may we not justly conclude, that if our postage were as cheap as in Great Britain, our letters will increase in the same proportion? People would not only write four-fold the number they now write, but all that are written will be sent by the U. S. mail, instead of private expresses, as they are now sent to all short distances. The reason why we have had only sixty-two millions, is because of our high rates of postage. Had Congress given us a two cent postage in 1845, instead of the present rates, the letters the last year would have been, instead of sixty-two, at least two hundred millions!

It is objected by some that in consequence of our large extent of country and sparsely settled population, we cannot afford to carry letters for two cents, or as cheap as Great Britain, where the population is more compact and the expense of transporting the mails much less. Let us examine the force of this objection and expose its futility.

According to the best information, the cost of the transportation of our mails, in 1848, notwithstanding the extent of our country, (exclusive of territories) was only \$218,993—not 10 per cent. greater than the British. This shows that the extent of our country does not greatly increase the cost of the transportation of the

mails, because we can do it much cheaper. Our rivers and lakes enable us to convey them at a cheaper rate than by railways.

Again, the expense of managing our Post Office Department is much less than theirs.

In 1849, the cost of management of the British Post-office was	- - - - -	\$7,016,250
The cost of the U. S. Post Office,		4,479,049
		<hr/>
Less than that of Great Britain,		\$2,537,201

These are facts founded on official returns, and therefore we would ask, where is the force of the objection, that “we cannot afford to carry letters as cheap as Great Britain?”

With these facts before them, are not the friends of cheap postage fully authorized to call upon Congress for a further reduction of postage—nay, are they not bound to demand as *great* a reduction as that made by the British government for the benefit of their people. Have we not clearly demonstrated that, with as cheap rates, we shall have as great an increase of letters in proportion to our population—and that we can transport the mails over our widely extended country with very little more expense—and that the management of our Post Office Department costs less than theirs by more than two million, five hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars!

Surely, then, no American citizen can hesitate to lend his aid to accomplish a measure which is fraught with so many blessings to every portion of our community. It benefits alike the post-office and the people. And why should Congress delay any longer in complying with the

wishes of the people, who have been for seven long years petitioning for *cheap postage*.

The Directors of the Association, encouraged by what they have already accomplished, have made arrangements to bring this subject again before the present Congress, in the confident belief, if they have the active and liberal co-operation of the friends of cheap postage throughout the United States, they will be able to obtain the reduction they require. They have engaged Barnabas Bates, who first brought this subject before the American public, and for the last ten years has devoted himself zealously and disinterestedly to the cause of cheap postage, to devote the whole of his time to the interests of the Association.

To enable the Directors to meet these necessary expenses, they must depend upon the aid of their fellow-citizens. The small amount contributed has been nearly all expended, and further contributions are indispensably necessary.

It will be seen by the list annexed, that the whole number of persons, Merchants, Banks, Insurance Companies, and other monied institutions which have contributed to this object does not exceed *two hundred and twenty-two*, out of a busy and active population of five hundred thousand. And as far as we can learn, if we except the city of Boston, and a few individuals in other places, these donations have been confined almost exclusively to the cities of New York and Brooklyn !

When the large amount which has been saved the last four years, by those extensively engaged in business, is duly considered, the sum which has been subscribed by them must be deemed insignificant; and certainly, such, upon application, will not refuse to make another and liberal contribution to this cause. To them we make

an appeal, because they have already manifested their interest in the subject, and we trust it will not be in vain. There are, however, in the city of New York, thousands of persons in trade, and of the liberal professions, who have reaped a large benefit from the adoption of cheap postage, but have not contributed one cent to effect it, and who no doubt will, if called upon, readily contribute to this desirable object. Contributions, to accomplish this measure, should not be confined to this city alone. Every city, town, and man of business throughout the length and breadth of our country, have been more or less benefited by cheap postage; for on every single letter received over 400 miles, they save 15 cents; and if it weighs one ounce they save eighty cents. As every one who writes and receives letters has reaped the pecuniary benefit of this measure, to say nothing of the social, moral and intellectual advantages resulting from it, they should feel that something at least is due from them to bear the expense incurred in accomplishing the object. Hitherto, with the exception before named, the whole labor and expense have been borne by the citizens of New York and Brooklyn. We therefore call upon our fellow-citizens in every part of the Union to co-operate with us in this work, either by aiding to defray the expenses necessarily incurred by employing agents and circulating petitions, or by employing their own agents to press this subject upon the consideration of Congress. No time should be lost.

If the law should be passed in season to go into operation, July 1st, 1850, five years since the adoption of the present rates, we believe that, in 1855, instead of sixty-two millions, the Post Master General's Report will show a return of nearly *two hundred millions* of letters.

# CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW YORK CHEAP POSTAGE ASSOCIATION, ORGANIZED MAY 26, 1848.

## ARTICLE 1.—*Name.*

This Association shall be called the New York Cheap Postage Association.

## ARTICLE 2.—*Object.*

The object of this Association is to effect a postal reform, by which pre-paid letters under half an ounce shall be carried for two cents to all distances in the United States, with higher rates for letters not pre-paid; and a corresponding reduction on newspapers and other printed matter, not to exceed one cent per sheet for any distance.

## ARTICLE 3.—*Membership.*

Any person agreeing to the objects of this Association, maybe a member by contributing to the funds of the Association.

## ARTICLE 4.—*Officers.*

At the first meeting of the Association, and annually at such time and place as shall be then appointed, there shall be chosen a President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and eight Directors; who, together, shall constitute a Board for the transaction of the business of this Association; to hold their offices until others are chosen in their stead, and shall have power to fill any vacancies in the Board.

## ARTICLE 5.—*Business.*

The business of the Association shall be conducted by the Board of Directors, as determined at their meeting. It shall be their duty to collect and diffuse information; to employ agents when expedient; to publish documents; circulate petitions; carry on the necessary correspondence; and do all that is proper to effect the object as aforesaid, which is not otherwise specially provided for at any meeting of the Association.

## ARTICLE 6.—*Change of Constitution.*

This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Association specially called for that purpose by public notification, which shall express the precise amendment proposed; and at said meeting such amendment may be adopted by vote of two-thirds of the members present.

## OFFICERS.

JAMES BROWN, *President.*  
BARNABAS BATES, *Corresponding Secretary.*  
ISAAC WINSLOW, JR., *Recording Secretary.*  
LEWIS TAPPAN, *Treasurer.*

## DIRECTORS.

HENRY GRINNELL,  
CURTIS BOLTON,  
SILAS WOOD,  
P. M. WETMORE,

JACOB HARSEN,  
JOHN A. UNDERWOOD,  
JOSEPH GODDARD,  
JOHN R. ST. JOHN,

JAMES LEE.

## LIST OF MEMBERS BEING DONORS

TO THE

## New York Cheap Postage Association.

Atlantie Mutual Insurance.....	\$25	Drew, Robinson & Co.....	\$10
Austens & Spiecer.....	10	Dutilh & Consinery ...	10
Aymar & Co.....	25	Dambman, C. F.....	10
Allen Hazen & Co.....	10	Donnelly, T. and M. & Co.....	10
Ætna Ins. Co. of Hartford, Ct.....	10	Dunham, E. W. & Sons.....	5
Albion Life Insurance Co.....	10	Doremus & Nixon.....	10
Augusta Insurance and Banking Co.	5	Dale, Thomas.....	5
Atterbury, L. Jr. & Co.....	5	Deraismes, John.....	2
Anderson & Starr.....	5	De Forest, W. W. & Co.....	10
		Delano, Frederiek A.....	10
Beche, Ludlow & Co.....	10		
Belmont, Auguste.....	10	Edwards, Alfred & Co.....	10
Bird, Gillilan & Co.....	10	Elliman, Brothers.....	10
Bowen & McNamee.....	10		
Brown, Brothers & Co.....	50	Fiedler, Ernest.....	10
Bank of Commerce.....	25	Foulke & Sons.....	10
Bank of New York.....	25	Foster, Andrew & Sons.....	10
Boorman, Johnston & Co.....	10	Freeland, Stewart & Co.....	10
Bottomley, Jr. J.....	10	Field, Cyrus W. & Co.....	10
Baldwin, Dibblee & Work.....	10	Farmers' Loan and Trust Co.....	10
Boon & Schuchardt.....	10	Fuller, Dudley B.....	5
Bank of America.....	25		
Bleecker & Outhont.....	10	Gilbert, Cobb & Johnston.....	10
Bodmer, H. Jr.....	10	Godfrey, Pattison & Co.....	10
Beals, Bush & Co.....	5	Godhue & Co.....	10
Barclay & Livingston.....	5	Grinnell, Minturn & Co.....	25
Bowery Bank.....	20	Garner & Co.....	10
Benjamin, W. Jr. & Co.....	5	General Mutual Ins. Co.....	15
British Com. Life Insurance Co.....	10	Greenways & Hudson.....	5
Brigham, D. & Co.....	5	Grant and Barton.....	10
Brjethaup, P. A. & Chun.....	10	Goddard, Joseph.....	5
Beard, Ira.....	1	Griswold, N. L. and G.....	10
Bank of the State of New York.....	25		
		Harmony, P. and Nephews.....	10
Camman & Whitehouse.....	10	Hall Brothers.....	10
Clarke E. Dodge & Co.....	10	Heekenrath and Van Damme.....	10
Corning & Co.....	10	Howland and Aspinwall.....	25
Cameron & Brand.....	10	Hoxie, J. (Columbus Ins. Co.).....	10
City Bank.....	25	Haggerty, Draper and Jones.....	20
Coffin, Bradley & Co.....	10	Hendricks and Brothers.....	10
Carey, W. H. & Co.....	10	Harrison, Thos. E. and Co.....	10
Chemical Bank.....	20	Hardt and Co.....	10
Clark & Wilson.....	5	Hessenberg, G. and Co.....	10
Carville, Charles.....	5	Howard Insurance Co.....	10
Curtis, L. B. & Co.....	5	Halsted, Haines and Co.....	10
Coe, Anderson & Co.....	5	Hicks and Co.....	10
Crocker & Warren.....	5	Henry and Smith.....	5
Corning, E. K.....	5	Hennequin, H.....	5
Compton & Turner.....	5	Hewitt, Lees and Co.....	5
Crook, R. L.....	2	Hunt, Brothers and Co.....	5
Carleton & Frothingham.....	10	Hunt, Wilson G. and Co.....	10
Cottenet, F. & Co.....	10	Hunt, T. and Co.....	10
Clapp & Kent.....	10	Harsen, Jacob.....	10
Columbus Insurance Co.....	10	Hartford Fire Ins. Co.....	10



Jones, S. T. and Co.....	\$10	Pickersgill, W. C. and Co.....	\$10
Jung and Behrman.....	10	Paton and Stewart.....	10
King, J. G. and Son.....	25	Phoenix Bank.....	25
Kaupt and Cameyer.....	10	Pollitz, O. W.....	10
Koop, Fischer and Co.....	10	Poppe, E. and T.....	10
Kemeys and Sampson.....	10	Pavenstadt, E., and Schumacher.....	10
Kitching, John B.....	10	Petrie, J. and A.....	10
		Phelps, Dodge and Co.....	10
Langley, W. C. and Co.....	10	Protection Insurance Co. of New Jer-	
Lee James and Co.....	10	sey.....	10
Leath, Manufacturer's Bank.....	20	Prosser, Thomas.....	5
Lexington Insurance Co.....	10	Persse and Brooks.....	5
Lottimer and Large.....	10	Platt, Wm. N., and Brother.....	5
Ludwig, Goldschmidt and Co.....	10		
Lane, Guili and Co.....	5	Richardson, Watson and Co.....	10
Lathrop, F. S. and D. and Co.....	10	Richards and Cronkhite.....	10
Lester, Andrews and Co.....	5	Riggs, Babcock and Co.....	10
Lachaise and Fauche.....	10	Ray, Robert.....	5
		Robbins, G. S.....	5
Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co....	15	Reimer and Mackie.....	10
Mali, W. T. and H.....	10	Robinson and Weir.....	5
Mackay, Wm.....	5	Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson.....	10
Morgan, M.....	10	Routh, H. L. and Son.....	5
Mussey and Murray.....	10		
Mutual Safety Insurance Co.....	10	Spofford, Tileston and Co.....	10
McCurdy, Aldrich and Spencer.....	15	Stone and Co.....	10
Mauhattan Co.....	25	Stuart, J. J. and Co.....	10
Merchants' Bank.....	25	Smith, Thurgar and Co.....	10
Mechanics' Bank.....	25	Shields, G. W. and Co.....	10
Mechanics' Banking Association.....	20	Spies, Christ and Co.....	10
Morgan, E. D. and Co.....	10	Schieffelin, Brothers and Co.....	10
Meyer and Stucken.....	10	Sterling, Cushing and Gregory.....	5
Morewood, G. B. and Co.....	10	Strachan & Scott.....	5
Mutual Security Insurance Co., (of		Shipman and Ayres.....	5
New Haven).....	10	Sands, A. B. and D.....	10
Merchants' Exchange Bank.....	20		
Mutual Life Insurance Co. of N York	10	Tappan, Lewis.....	25
Marsh and Frear.....	10	Taylor, Moses.....	10
Mechanics and Traders Bank.....	10	Tooker, Mead and Co.....	10
McHaig and Richardson.....	5	Tarratt, Joseph, and Sons.....	10
Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co....	10	Tweedy, Moulton and Plympton...	5
Middleton and Co.....	5	Tapscott, W. and F.....	5
Mackie, J. F. and Co.....	2		
Moller and Sands.....	5	Union Bank.....	25
Miln, George.....	5	United Kingdom Life Ins. Co.....	10
Marsh and Northrop.....	2		
Merritt, Ely and Co.....	5	Victor F. Acheles.....	10
Morrison and Levy.....	1	Vandervoort, P. H.....	5
		Vyse and Sons.....	10
New York Insurance Co.....	15	Van Wart, Son and Co.....	5
Nicoll S. T. and Co.....	10		
National Loan Fund Insurance Co....	10	Ward and Co.....	25
Nevins and Co.....	10	Winslow and Perkins.....	10
North American Insurance Co.....	10	Winter, J. G.....	10
Nautilus Insurance Co.....	10	Waldo, H.....	10
North, Brothers.....	10	Walker and Brother.....	10
North River Insurance Co.....	10	Wolcott and Slade.....	10
North River Bank.....	10	Wight, Sturges and Shaw.....	10
North Western Insurance Co.....	5	Watt and Sherman.....	10
New England Life Insurance Co. of		Wheelwright, W. Jr. and Co.....	10
Boston.....	10	Wetmore and Cryder.....	10
		Whitlock, Wm. Jr.....	5
Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Co....	10	Wilson, D. M. and Co.....	5
Oelrichs and Kruger.....	10	Wetmore, Prosper M.....	5
Olyphant and Son.....	10	Wetmore and Co.....	10
Osgood, Charles and Co., Norwich..	10		
Ohio Insurance Co.....	5		
Oakey, D. and Co.....	5		



## TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

## RECEIPTS.

Cash from City Bank, being balance to the credit of the late Jacob Harvey, Esq., Treasurer of P. O. Committee, - - - - -	\$ 29 75
Do. from Donors and Members of N. Y. C. P. Association,	2,290 00
Do. from sundry other sources, - - - - -	5 07
	<hr/>
	\$2,324 82

## EXPENDITURES.

Printing Pamphlets, Petitions, Circulars, &c., - - -	\$427 27
Advertising, - - - - -	309 33
Agencies, - - - - -	759 25
Postage on Circulars, &c., - - - - -	517 62
Sundries, - - - - -	12 67
	<hr/>
	\$2,026 14
Balance in hands of Treasurer, - - - - -	298 68
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Total, agreeing with the Receipts, as above stated,	\$2,324 82

E. E. New York, Feb. 7, 1850.

LEWIS TAPPAN, Treasurer.

I hereby certify that I have examined the account of Lewis Tappan, Treasurer of the NEW YORK CHEAP POSTAGE ASSOCIATION, with the vouchers, and find the same correct, the balance in his hands being, according to the above abstract of account, two hundred and ninety-eight dollars and sixty-eight cents.

ISAAC WINSLOW, JR.,  
Auditor.

New York, Feb. 7, 1850.



